(c) and (d) Progress of work on Murthal-Karnal section which is targetted to be completed by December, 1995 is 13 per cent an expenditure of Rs. 13.90 crores upto January, 1993 out of total likely cost of Rs. 54.75 crores at present rates.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Use of Battery operated Vehicles

368. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps to encourage the use of battery operated vehicles based on compressed natural gases;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to fix a ceiling of 20 years on the age of commercial vehicles; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Government are encouraging battery operated vehicles based on secondary batteries. Financial assistance is being provided to Government/Public Sector/Private Sector registered organisations for purchase of these vehicles at the rate of Rs. one lakh per vehicle for passenger model and Rs. 50,000 per vehicle for industrial model. To promote the use of battery vehicles 100 per cent depreciation rate for the battery vehicles in the first year itself is allowed.

(c) and (d) Government have not taken a final decision in the matter.

Construction of Roads of Private Sectors

369. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to treat road construction as core sector to enable private sector to secure concessional finance from banks and to give a filling to road construction; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An amendment has been made in the Acts governing Industrial Development Bank of India by which the activity of development, maintainance and construction of roads has been specified to be an "industrial concern" so as to enable private sector to secure finance from financial institutions.

Projects of Calcutta Port Trust

370. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 4550 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th August, 1992 and state:

Impact Assessment/Environment Management Plan submitted or likely to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and the details of clearance received from CIT, CMC and DFC in the matter;

(b) whether it is a fact that Calcutta Port Trust in a bid to secure assistance has offered huge number of proposed flats to Government of West Bengal at a lesser or appropriate price but much higher rates are being charged from the general buyers;

(c) whether these projects would really cause health and traffic hazards